

[DATE]

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) recommends all children 6 months of age and older be vaccinated against influenza to stay protected against this serious illness. Last flu season in the United States, 195 children died due to influenza. It is important to be aware that children younger than 5, and those with chronic health problems like asthma and diabetes are at higher risk for serious flu-related complications. Vaccination also reduces the spread of seasonally circulating flu viruses in childcares, schools and in our communities.

Some children require two doses of influenza vaccine to be fully protected against the flu. This includes children ages 6 months through 8 years getting vaccinated for the first time, and those who previously received only one dose of vaccine. Children who previously received two doses of vaccine before July 1, 2021 only need one dose of influenza vaccine this season.

According to the North Dakota Immunization Information System, [FIRST NAME] still needs an additional dose of flu vaccine to be fully protected this season. Please contact your child's doctor's office or local public health unit to make an appointment for your child to be vaccinated as soon as possible, as flu vaccine can take up to two weeks to be protective.

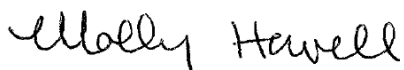
With the current COVID-19 pandemic in the United States and around the world, the importance of vaccinations has become more critical. While getting the flu vaccine will not protect against COVID-19, benefits include reducing the risk of flu illness, hospitalizations, or death. North Dakota healthcare providers and local public health units are taking every precaution to ensure your child can receive their immunizations safely during the pandemic.

Please be sure to get a copy of your child's immunization record to keep for your records. Also, don't forget to get the flu vaccine for yourself.

If you received this letter in error or would like to opt out of receiving immunization reminders from the NDDoH, please complete an online form at <https://www.health.nd.gov/immunize/ndiis/reminder-recall>.

If you have any questions, please contact the NDDoH Immunization Program at 701.328.3386 or 800.472.2180.

Sincerely,



Molly Howell, MPH
Immunization Program Manager